United Nations E/C.20/2012/9

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
11 June 2012

Original: English

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
Second session
New York, 13-15 August 2012
Item 9 of the provisional agenda*
Global Geodetic Reference System

Global Geodetic Reference System

Note by the Secretary-General

The present paper summarizes the report of the Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific, transmitted by the Secretary-General to the Committee of Experts.[1] The report, requested by the Committee of Experts at its first session, describes the development of and growing demand for a global geodetic reference system that underpins all geospatial information. It recognizes that many economic and social activities, including navigation, civil engineering, agriculture, financial transactions and disaster management, are now relying heavily on high-precision positioning technologies and related infrastructure. The report describes the requirements for such geodetic positioning infrastructure as the Continuously Operating Reference Station, the Global Navigation Satellite System and the Global Positioning System. The report considers particular vulnerabilities in the Asia-Pacific region, where the infrastructure is comparatively sparse, inaccurate and difficult to access. Similar problems may exist in other regions. In general, the current networks are not effectively linked to each other or to the global reference frame, while the lack of data sharing has an impact on the accuracy and type of geodetic analysis that can be performed. The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the different options for improved positioning infrastructure to support the Global Geodetic Reference System.

---

* E/C.20/2012/1.

[1] The full report is available in the language of submission only from http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html.

12-36905 (E) 270612

Please recycle